

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 ACDA-05 IO-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 NIC-01 AF-06 EB-07

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R 131457Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1977

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY RABAT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TRIPOLI 0185

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MO, SP

SUBJECT: SPANISH AMBASSADOR TOLD OF LIBYAN "CONCERN"
OVER REINFORCEMENT OF CEUTA AND MELILLA

1. SPANISH AMBASSADOR WAS CALLED TO FOREIGN MINISTRY
FEB 12 AND TOLD BY UNDERSECRETARY DURDAH OF LIBYA'S
"CONCERN AT REPORTS WHICH SPEAK OF SPANISH MILITARY MOVE-
MENTS IN ARAB MOROCCAN WATERS, AS WELL AS STATEMENTS BY
SOME SPANISH OFFICIALS, IN PARTICULAR DECLARATION ATTRIBUTED
TO SPANISH MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND TOURISM IN WHICH HE
SAID CEUTA AND MELILLA WERE PART OF SPAIN BEFORE ESTABLISH-
MENT OF PRESENT MOROCCAN STATE", ACCORDING TO LIBYAN PRESS
STATEMENT ON MEETING.

2. STILL ACCORDING TO LIBYAN STATEMENT, AMBASSADOR WAS TOLD THAT
"LIBYA AND OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES HAVE TAKEN GREAT STEPS TO
STRENGTHEN HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL RELATIONS WHICH EXIST
BETWEEN SPAIN AND ARAB NATION, AND WHICH GO BACK LONG
CENTURIES". THIS ACTION ON SPANISH SIDE "MAY PREVENT
CONTINUATION (OF THESE STEPS), AND DECLARATIONS OF SPANISH
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AUTHORITIES WHICH STATE THAT CEUTA AND MELILLA ARE PART OF

SPAIN ARE A REJECTVN OF (THE STEPS)". UNDERSECRETARY SAID TO HAVE EXPRESSED LIBYA'S "SUPPORT FOR THE MOROCCAN' PEOPLE AND THEIR GOVT IN THEIR DEMAND FOR LIBERATION OF CEUTA AND MELILLA", ADDING THAT "IT WAS UP TO SPAIN TO ERADICATE ITS IMPERIALIST PRESENCE IN SAQYA AL HAMRA AND WADI AL-DHAHAB, AS WELL AS THESE AREAS".

3. PRESENTATION OF PROTEST WAS UNUSUAL, AND OFFENSIVELY SO, AS LIBYANS TELEVISED ITS DELIVERY TO SPANISH AMBASSADOR ROBLES WHO HAD BEEN SUMMONED TO RECEIVE IT. EVENING TELEVISION NEWS SHOWED FILM OF AMBASSADOR SITTING UNCOMFORTABLY AT FOREIGN MINISTRY BETWEEN UNDERSECRETARY DURDAH AND CHIEF OF PROTOCOL, WHILE ABOVE STATEMENT WAS READ AS VOICE-OVER.

4. COMMENT: STATEMENT MAKES CAREFUL DISTINCTION BETWEEN CEUTA AND MILILLA AND SPANISH SAHARA. IT SPECIFICALLY SUPPORTS CLAIMS OF "MOROCCAN PEOPLE AND THEIR GOVT" TO PRAESIDIOS, BUT LANGUAGE ON SAHARA IS LIMITED TO CALL FOR SPANISH WITHDRAWAL. AS USUAL, LIBYAN TACTIC IS TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF "ARAB NATION".

STEIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, SELFDETERMINATION, DEPENDENCIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TRIPOL00185
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750054-0645
From: TRIPOLI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750244/aaaabnih.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 JUN 2003 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <28 OCT 2003 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPANISH AMBASSADOR TOLD OF LIBYAN "CONCERN" OVER REINFORCEMENT OF CEUTA AND MELILLA
TAGS: PFOR, MO, SP, LY, SS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006